

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00208 171419Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 /075 W  
-----030797 172302Z /70

R 171312Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2787  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, CB, SW  
SUBJECT: SWEDEN AND THE INDOCHINESE CONFLICT

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 32 (NOTAL), (B) 77 STOCKHOLM 5437

1. BOTH VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS HAVE PROPAGANDIZED THE  
GOS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AS REGARDS CURRENT  
INDOCHINESE BORDER FLARE-UP. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN  
STOCKHOLM CALLED ON MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY, LEIF  
LEIFLAND, SHORTLY AFTER NEW YEAR'S TO PRESENT VIETNAMESE  
VERSION AND TO REQUEST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SWEDISH POSITION  
ON THE CONFLICT (REF A). SWEDES OBLIGED WITH BLAND  
PARAGRAPH EXPRESSING HOPE FOR EARLY RETURN TO PEACE BUT  
DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE STATEMENT PUBLIC.

2. MFA INDOCHINA DESK OFFICER INFORMED EMBOFFS ON  
JANUARY 16 THAT THE CAMBODIANS PRESENTED THEIR SIDE TO  
SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA KAJ BJORK (WHO IS ACCREDITED  
TO PHENOM PENH). SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR TO BANGKOK, JEAN-  
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CHRISTOPHER OBERG, ON A MUCH-PUBLICIZED TOURIST VISIT TO  
CAMBODIA IN DECEMBER (REF B), WAS ALSO GIVEN CAMBODIAN  
VERSION. OBERG, WHO WAS UNDER STRICT MFA ORDERS NOT TO  
INVOLVE HIMSELF IN SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH  
CAMBODIANS, AROUSED THE IRE OF HIS MFA COLLEAGUES UP TO  
AND INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER BY WHAT ARE REGARDED  
AS ILL-CONCEIVED STATEMENTS THAT "REPORTS OF ATROCITIES

IN CAMBODIA COULD NOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE." FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WILL ADDRESS SUBJECT IN THE RIKSDAG ON JANUARY 19 IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HER CONCERNING OBERG AFFAIR.

3. AMBASSADOR BJORK IS PRESENTLY ON A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO CAMBODIA TOGETHER WITH FOUR OTHER NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS (FROM TANZANIA, FINLAND, DENMARK AND IRAQ). MFA NOT FULLY COGNIZANT OF ITINERARY BUT EXPECT FULL REPORT UPON COMPLETION OF BJORK'S TRIP ON JANUARY 21.

4. THE SWEDISH PUBLIC, TRADITIONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO INDOCHINESE UNDERDOGS, ARE ALREADY BEGUN TO LOSE FAIR-HAIRED IMAGE AS RESULT OF PROBLEM-SATURATED BAI BONG PAPERMILL PROJECT, SWEDEN'S MOST COSTLY FOREIGN AID PROJECT TO DATE. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MP BIRGITTA DAHL, CHAIRMAN OF SWEDISH INDOCHINA COMMITTEE, FAILED TO STRIKE A SYMPATHETIC CHORD AMONG THE PUBLIC-AT-LARGE WITH HER ACCUSATIONS THAT THE "REAL THREAT TO PEACE IN THIS AREA COMES FROM THAILAND, AND THE US IS STILL BACKING UP THE THAI MILITARY JUNTA."

5. SVENSKA DAGBLADET, IN A MORE TEMPERATE VEIN, COMMENTED AHAT "A NEW VIETNAM DEBATE IN SWEDEN WOULD BE INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. IT WOULD PROBABLY SHOW THAT REALITY IS CONSIDERABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE COMPLICATED THAN THE PROPAGANDA--LIKE SIMPLIFICATIONS THAT WERE SO COMMON IN THE 1960'S."  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, CB, SW  
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**Type:** TE  
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